

A Baffled Burglar.

How a burglar was cleverly captured has been described by himself in the following narrative:

The poker point was the means of getting me five years. It came about in this way. The young, newly married squire had furnished the old house for the reception of his bride, the daughter of a rich merchant in the neighborhood, who, it was rumored, had a large dowry. The new plate, clocks, loose money, etc., they were, in a measure, obliged to keep in the house, were too tempting for me, a burglar. I arranged with my accomplice in London to send the squire a telegram calling him to London in haste—which he did, telegraphing me that he had done so. I proceeded to the house and watched the squire depart; then, waiting till night, admitted myself, as I well knew how. Finding nothing of value downstairs, I crept up to the library, but found nothing, so, concluding the valuables were kept in the bedroom, I, after a moment's thought, determined to risk all and try for the cash, which I needed, and wished for most. I crept to what I thought would be the door; but no, the room was unfurnished and empty. Stopping to consider, I saw a light from under the door opposite to me. "That," I thought, "might be the room, and the lady being timid, is afraid to go to bed. Shall I try? It's very dangerous should she scream. Never mind, I'll try—may never get the chance again." Creeping to the door, I turned the handle; the door yielded; I entered with my pistol cocked, and remarked: "If you scream I shoot." But it would have been better had I not spoken, she having fallen asleep in her chair by the side of the fire, (the light of which I had seen under the door,) but at the sound of my voice she started up in terror—dumb. I said: "If you make a sound I'll murder you." After looking round the room I had only found her watch and jewelry ornaments, so, again turning to her, I bade her tell me where the cash was kept. She, too, terrified to speak, pointed to a small oak chest which had escaped my notice. There I found both the money and the plate. I had put the cash into my vest pocket, and was preparing to pack the plate into my bag, when a slight noise attracted my attention. Somebody was stirring. I listened: it was someone coming up stairs. I looked at the lady. Yes, she had evidently heard it too; her face wore a relieved look. Closing the chest, I turned to her; cocked my pistol and said: "If you breathe one word that I'm in the room I'll murder you both, then slipped under the bed hoping to escape later. The person we had heard ascending the stairs proved to be her husband, who told his wife he only went as far as Shrewsbury, where the line, owing to an accident to a baggage train, was blocked and, finding he could not reach London till very late, he telegraphed on to know if it would do in the morning, or must be post through to the next station, arriving in London about midnight. He received a reply that they did not understand his message. What did he refer to? He again wired, sending a copy of the message he had received from them that morning. They answered they had not sent the message, and there was evidently an unpleasant hoax. "I," he continued, "feared it might be burglars, and that ere I could reach home again you might be murdered in your sleep. But how is it you are not in bed at this late hour? There's nothing wrong I hope," he asked his wife. I, under the bed, lay waiting her reply before deciding whether to bound for the door or remain perfectly quiet. She answered: "Feeling nervous and lonely, I did not care to go to bed until certain that you had not returned by this train, and I was also timid of burglars; they have been so busy in the neighborhood. But have you had anything to eat?" she added. He said he had dined at Shrewsbury, but had had nothing since, and he felt rather hungry. She told him she had brought up some eatables and tea, thinking he might return, and would prepare them while he warmed himself. He took the chair on the other side of the fire opposite his wife. She placed the kettle on the fire to boil, and then, for a time, perfect quietness reigned, but it was during that quietness—I afterwards discovered on my trial—that she disclosed to her husband the fact, by means of the dumb alphabet, which both understood perfectly. He, remarking the time the kettle took to boil was beyond the patience of a hungry man, began to poke the fire, leaving the poker there till it became red hot; then he drew it forth, walked over the bedside and, lifting up the counterpane, commanded me to come forth or my nose would be singed. I, fearing he would put his threat into execution if I dared to come out at the side where he stood, bounded out on the other, when to my surprise, I was met by his wife with the tongs, likewise red hot at the ends, with which she struck me on the hands—fearing I was going to murder her as threatened—and caused me to drop my knife, which I had drawn in self-defense, knowing that if I used my pistol I should alarm the whole house, and that then all chances of escape would be gone. The squire rushed round the bed, kicked the knife out of my reach and, putting the poker close to my eyes, ordered me to sit in the chair he had occupied, or he would burn my eyes out. I obeyed, the suddenness of the double attack having stunned me. He requested his wife to call the servants and send one for the gardener. When the gardener arrived the squire ordered him to fasten my wrists together. I resisted. He put the poker to my nose; the pain and heat were so intense that I yielded. My wrists secured, he ordered the gardener to lead me downstairs; he followed, carrying the

The Social Position of Women.

Nothing can be more deplorable than the tyranny which is endured by Hindu women. Compelled to marry in childhood, she is then kept in almost perfect seclusion, and should her husband die her life becomes one of perpetual misery. By the laws, as given in the sacred books of the country, widows are prohibited from remarrying; but these laws have been improved upon by the priests, and with the death of her young husband Hindu woman loses all hopes of happiness, not because she herself desires it, but because others will it so. She is no longer burned on the funeral pyre—a fate which formerly many preferred to face rather than live a life of perpetual martyrdom—but, instead, she is doomed to a slow agony which only ceases with death.

Directly her husband dies, she is stripped of all ornaments, frequently with violence and cruelty, and for one month is obliged to mourn, eating but one meal in a day; wearing the same cotton garment day and night, and sleeping upon the bare ground. Nor does her trouble end here. She is everywhere looked upon as though stricken with some virulent disease, and must take no part in social or religious festivities or ceremonies. Two days in every month she is required to fast, not only abstaining from food, but also from all drink, the tortures, under the burning suns of India, being almost indescribable.

In some parts of the country the newly-made widow is obliged to stand for hours in a river near the place where the body of her husband was burned, and this takes place in all weathers, and with no regard to the state of health in which the woman or child (as it most frequently is) happens to be.

A Dynamite Gun.

A new cruiser is at present in course of construction for the American Government which is exciting a good deal of interest in the naval circles. Her peculiar feature, however, is principally her armament which will be confined to three dynamite guns. The ordinance, instead of hurling a projectile by means of an explosion in the breech of the cannon, transfers the explosion to the point of impact on the enemy's vessel. Instead of a shell, the gun throws a copper can, containing 200 lbs. of dynamite. The gun is fired by compressed air at 1,000 lbs. pressure per square inch. This dynamite explodes when it strikes the mark with the terrible energy characteristic of that substance and, instead of boring a hole into the side of a ship like a cannon ball, it would tear a hole. As it has to sustain the pressure of only the compressed air, the dynamite gun is much lighter in build than ordinary ordinance, but in order to secure the necessary velocity it is considerably longer.

In Dead Earnest.

Talkative Stranger—"Yes, sir, I am heart and soul in favor of the Chicago packers, and hope they will soon strike again for their altars and their fires as they never struck before." Omaha man—"You seem terribly in earnest." "In earnest! I would make five speeches a night if I could induce them all to join in a general lockout." "Are you a Socialist?" "Oh! no!" "A leader of the Knights of Labor, perhaps?" "Not at all; I never joined a trades union." "Queer; what business are you in?" "I am an Eastern butcher and do my own killing."—Omaha World.

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